

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with La. R.S. 30:2054 et seq., the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) is submitting a revision to the air quality State Implementation Plan (SIP) to implement certain provisions of the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR). CAIR was promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to reduce emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) from electrical generating units (EGUs) through a cap-and-trade approach. Louisiana will remain under the provisions of the Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) for the CAIR Annual NO_x and Ozone Season NO_x Trading Programs with the exception of the FIP provisions related to NO_x allowance allocations. States are allowed to submit an abbreviated SIP to comply with CAIR in accordance with 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Sections 51.123(p) and 51.123(ee). The abbreviated SIP revision includes the rule AQ285 which revises LAC 33:III.506 to provide annual and ozone season NO_x allocation provisions that will be used in lieu of the CAIR FIP NO_x allocation provisions in 40 CFR Part 97 Sections 97.141, 97.142, 97.341 and 97.342. The final rule was published on August 20, 2007 in the Louisiana Register and was effective upon publication. A copy of the final rule is included in Appendix B.

In CAIR, the EPA determined that SO₂ and NO_x emissions from EGUs in certain states and the District of Columbia contribute significantly to nonattainment of and interfere with maintenance of the fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and ground level ozone standards in other downwind states. Section 110(a)(2)(D)(i) of the Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) establishes requirements related to the impacts of interstate transport. EPA has determined that, through compliance with CAIR, states can address the section 110(a)(2)(D)(i) requirements for “significant contribution” to nonattainment and “interference with maintenance” of the 8-hour ozone and/or PM_{2.5} standards. The submittal of revisions to the SIP to comply with CAIR satisfies Louisiana’s obligations for these requirements. Section 110(a)(2)(D)(i) of the CAAA also contains provisions pertaining to “prevention of significant deterioration” and “visibility protection”. These requirements are also addressed in this proposed SIP revision.